

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-03 COME-00 DODE-00

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ARA/NC-R.W. SONANDRES (SUB)

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R 221558Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: NA

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TAGS: OCLR

SUBJECT: R/V TRIDENT CRUISE TR-L66 OF 26 APRIL - 9 MAY

REF: STATE 62908

1. BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY, DEPT INFORMED URI THAT VESSEL HAD RECEIVED CLEARANCE FOR SUBJECT CRUISE UPON CONDITION THAT VESSEL EMBARK GOV SCIENTIST IN VENEZUELA PRIOR TO WORK IN CARIOCA TRENCH AND DISEMBARK HIM IN VENEZUELA FOLLOWING THIS WORK. URI OFFICIALS INDICATED VESSEL WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE THIS AND DEPT SO INFORMED EMBASSY. LATER, DEPT WAS INFORMED BY URI OFFICIALS THAT VESSEL HAD EXPERIENCED SOME DELAYS AND THAT UNEXPECTED ADDITIONAL DELAYS INVOLVED IN ARRANGING FOR GOV SCIENTIST'S PARTICIPATION WOULD BE PORHIBITIVE. THEREFORE, VESSEL'S CHIEF SCIENTIST DECIDED TO ABORT WORK IN CARIOCA TRENCH AND PROCEED TO COMPLETE REMAINDER OF VESSEL'S PLANNED RE-SEARCH PROGRAM. DEPT'S EFFORTS TO INFORM EMBASSY OF THIS DECISION OVER THAT WEEKEND WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

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2. THIS IS ONLY MOST RECENT OF SERIES OF INCIDENTS IN WHICH

GOV PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING RESEARCH REQUESTS CLEAR-
ANCE HAVE APPARENTLY RESULTED IN APPROVAL OF CLEARANCE ONLY
AT LAST MINUTE, IRRESPECTIVE OF AMOUNT OF ADVANCE NOTICE

PROVIDED. THIS HAS RESULTED IN DISRUPTION OF RESEARCH
AND IN THIS CASE CANCELLATION OF PART OF PROJECT. HOW-
EVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS ARE
ONLY THAT OR WHETHER THEY REPRESENT DELIBERATE EFFORT BY
GOV TO DELAY AND DISRUPT RESEARCH.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY'S ASSESS-
MENT OF PRESENT GOV ATTITUDES TOWARDS U.S. OCEANOGRAPHIC
RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN GOV TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ON
VENEZUELAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. IF CLEARANCE PROBLEMS ARE
PROCEDURAL, DEPT WOULD WELCOME ADVICE FROM EMBASSY
AS TO WHETHER SUCH PROBLEMS COULD BE ALLEVIATED BY ACTION
BY DEPT AND/OR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS. INGERSOLL

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